

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /101 W

----- 052757

R 021637Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8542

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2095

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SP

SUBJECT: PROPOSED STAFF REDUCTIONS IN JOINT US MILITARY GROUP

1. I HAVE RECENTLY LEARNED OF A SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DIRECTIVE TO REDUCE US PERSONNEL IN JUSMG SPAIN FROM 53 TO 25 DURING FY 1975. JUSMG SUBMITTED A DRAFT OF A REVISED JOINT MANPOWER PLAN WHICH IF IMPLEMENTED WOULD ELIMINATE FUNCTIONS ESSENTIAL TO IMPLEMENTATION OF CURRENT AGREEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION (AFC) AND REDUCE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SUPPORT. I AM SERIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT THESE CURTAILMENTS WOULD HAVE HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES BOTH FOR THE MILITARY INTERESTS AND FOR THE GENERAL US POLITICAL/ECONOMIC POSITION IN SPAIN. PREPARATIONS ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY FOR RENEWAL OF THE AFC FOR BASE RIGHTS. IT WOULD SEEM SHORTSIGHTED TO DEPRIVE OURSELVES OF THE EXPERIENCE AND SUPPORT OF JUSMG BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE COMPLETED AND THE IMPLICATIONS KNOWN OF PERSONNEL REQUIRED IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW AFC. ALL MATTERS INVOLVING US MILITARY FORCES IN SPAIN, LIAISON WITH SPANISH GOVERNMENT MILITARY AGENCIES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MILITARY ASPECTS OF CURRENT AFC. THE PROPOSED REDUCTIONS WOULD SERIOUSLY CURTAIL JUSMG'S ABILITY TO CONTINUE THIS SUPPORT. AS LONG AS US MILITARY FORCES REMAIN IN SPAIN, LEGAL, INFORMATIONAL, AND LABOR AFFAIRS SERVICES SHOULD BE PERFORMED FROM COORDINATED JOINT LEVEL BY TRAINED AND QUALIFIED PERSONNEL. DELETING A LEGAL SECTION WOULD ELIMINATE THE SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT

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BETWEEN THE US MILITARY (AIR FORCE AND NAVY) AND SPANISH JUDICIARY,

CIVILIAN AND MILITARY. LABOR AFFAIRS LIKEWISE PROVIDES THE AIRFORCE AND NAVY DAILY INFORMATION ON SPAIN'S CHANGING LABOR, SOCIAL SECURITY AND INCOME TAX SYSTEMS THEREBY PREVENTING UNWITTING VIOLATIONS OF SPANISH REGULATIONS. A REDUCTION IN THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT/ PLANS SECTION WOULD BE PARTICULARLY DAMAGING AT THIS TIME WITH THE IMPENDING NEGOTIATIONS AND IN IMPLEMENTING THE RECENTLY-AGREED PROGRAM FOR WORKING UP THE ANNUAL DEFENSE COMPATIBILITY PLAN REQUIRED BY THE AFC.

3. THE GOS HAS EMBARKED ON A VAST FORCE MODERNAIZATION PROGRAM FOR ALL THREE SERVICES. I RECENTLY PERSONALLY OBSERVED, AND NOTED THE SPANISH INTEREST IN, A US DRAGON DEMONSTRATION AND A DISCUSSION AND EXPLANATION OF THE M-47 TANK RETROFIT. ALL THREE SERVICES HAVE AMBITIOUS PROGRAMS INVOLVING MANY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF FMS: THE NAVY WITH 453 MILLION OUTSTANDING AND 200 MILLION PENDING; THE AIR FORCE WITH ABOUT 88 MILLION DOLLARS OF FMS AND A PROJECTION OF \$100M MORE; AND THE ARMY WITH \$41M FIRM AND ABOUT \$270M PENDING OR PROJECTED. ALL OF SPANISH FORCES INDICATE A DESIRE TO ALIGN THEMSELVES CLOSELY WITH THE US AND US EQUIPMENT. REDUCTION OF JUSMG MILITARY PERSONNEL, INCLUDING THE ONLY MARINE CORPS REPRESENTATIVE, IS BOUND TO REDUCE US DEFENSE/ECONOMIC PROSPECTS AND WEAKEN THE SPANISH MILITARY TIES WITH THE US FORCES.

4. LASTLY, AND MOST DISTURBING TO ME, IS THE APPARENT ASSUMPTION OF THE DOD DIRECTIVE THAT THE JUSMG FUNCTIONS RELATING TO THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS PROVIDED FOR BY THE AFC (E.G. LABOR AFFAIRS, INFORMATION, LEGAL CONSULATATION, WHICH ARE SO IMPORTANT TO OUR CONTINUED GOOD RELATIONS AND INCLUDING THE MANNING OF THE PLANS/PERMANENT SECRETARIAT SECTION, WHICH WE ARE COMMITTED TO UNDER THE AFC, CAN BE REDUCED WITHOUT HEAVY PENALTY TO US. STATE IS NEITHER MANNED NOR FUNDED, NOR HAS THE OBLIGATION TO ASSUME THESE FUNCTIONS, WHICH DERIVE DIRECTLY FROM OUR FORCES STATIONED IN SPAIN, BUT THE FUNCTIONS NEED TO BE PERFORMED. IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THESE FUNCTIONS (JUSMG) AND THOSE OF THE MAAG PROPER HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED CUTS IN JUSMG/MAAG SPAIN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PLANS, TROOP REDUCTIONS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, MILITARY BASES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MADRID02095
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740073-0864
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740474/aaaacqgh.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED STAFF REDUCTIONS IN JOINT US MILITARY GROUP
TAGS: MARR, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005